

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /045 W
----- 057355

R 161513Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2804
INFO USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IWE/GAWRONSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SPON, PO
SUBJECT: RECENT MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 2159 AND 1616

1. NEW PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY (REFTEL) CALLED AGENCIA NOTICIOSA PORTUGUESA (ANO) WILL INCLUDE AMONG ITS NEW FUNCTIONS EDITING AND DISTRIBUTION OF OFFICIAL GOP PUBLICATION "DIARIO DO GOVERNO." ANO WILL RECEIVE ITS ORIENTATION FROM A YET TO BE NAMED ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSISTING OF A JUDGE, A JOURNALIST, REPRESENTATIVES FROM PORTUGUESE NATIONAL RADIO (EN) AND TELEVISION (RTP) AND THREE DELEGATES FROM THE INTER-MINISTERIAL NATIONAL PRESS COUNCIL (REFTEL) TO BE APPOINTED BY THE MINISTRY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS. ANO WILL CONTINUE WORK OF EXISTING PORTUGUESE NEW AGENCY (ANI).

2. NEW WEEKLY "O JORNAL" WITH CIRCULATION OF 60,000 (10 PERCENT UNSOLD) CAME OUT ON NEWSSTANDS MAY 2 AT PRICE OF THIRTY CENTS PER COPY, NEARLY TWICE THE COST OF ITS TWO WEEKLY COMPETITORS ("EXPRESSO" AND "SEMPRE FIXE"). CLAIMING TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD WORKERS, "O JORNAL" SAYS IT WILL BE NON-PARTISAN AND INDEPENDENT. INITIAL ISSUES CONSIST OF 32 PAGES OF EDITORIAL

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COMMENTARY ONLY, DEVOTED TO "FURTHERING THE REVOLUTIONARY

PROCESS IN PORTUGAL TOWARD A SOCIALIST SOCIETY." DIRECTOR OF "O JORNAL" IS JOAQUIM LETRIA, FORMERLY ON EDITORIAL STAFF OF DIARIO DE LISBOA WHO ALSO WORKS FOR PORTUGUESE TELEVISION (RTP). DIRECTOR AND EDITORIAL CONSIDERED TO BE MODERATE SOCIALIST. NAMES OF EDITORIAL STAFF FOLLOWS: JOSE CARLOS DE VASCONCELOS, JOSE SILVA PINTO, FRANCISCO SARSFIELD CABRAL, PEDRO RAFAEL DOS SANTOS, MANUEL BECA MURIAS, AFONSO PRACA, FERNANDO GASPAR, JOAQUIM LOBO, JOAO SEGURADO, RUI PIMENTA, HERNANI SANTOS, ALMEIDA MARTINS, CACERES MONTEIRO.

3. FIRST ISSUE OF NEW WEEKLY PAPER "NOVA TERRA," OWNED BY CARDINAL PATRIARCH OF LISBON AND CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ORDERS, WES PUBLISHED ON MAY 14. PAPER IS DIRECTED BY UNIVERSITY OF LISBON LETTERS FACULTY PROFESSOR MARIA DE LOURDES BELCHIOR, WHO WAS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN FIRST PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. A SEMI-OFFICIAL RELIGIOUS PUBLICATION, "NOVA TERRA" WILL PROVIDE POINT OF VIEW OF CATHOLIC CHURCH, BUT WILL NOT BE TIED TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

COMMENT:

1. DESPITE PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY CHANGES IN NAME, IMAGE AND THE ADDITION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, NO SUBSTITUTIONS ARE EXPECTED FOR FAR LEFTIST ANI DIRECTOR VILLAVERDE CABRAL.

2. ALTHOUGH PURPORTEDLY DIRECTED TOWARD WORKERS, "O JORNAL'S" HIGH PRICE PUTS IT BEYOND THE REACH OF BULK OF AUDIENCE TO WHICH ITNSUPPOSEDLY IS AIMED. ZOKUN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, INFORMATION MEDIA, REORGANIZATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON02758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0867
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750545/aaaabouu.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 2159, 75 AND 1616
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006